

HOUSE No. 627

By Mr. Atsalis of Barnstable, petition of Demetrius J. Atsalis relative to establishing criminal liability for certain actions of employees of the Department of Social Services. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICE EMPLOYEES FOR CERTAIN ACTIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 Section 51B of chapter 119 of the General Laws, as appearing
2 in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the
3 following paragraph:—
4 Any employee of the department shall be liable for criminal
5 prosecution for child endangerment by the act of screening out
6 any report for abuse or neglect received under section 51A
7 brought against a foster home or residential placement where the
8 department has placed a child without referral to law enforcement.
9 Such employee may also face administrative sanctions in the
10 form of suspension, termination or revocation of license.